

To: Bradley_Mastin@ca.blm.gov
OHVinfo@parks.ca.gov

Re: grants for “Dumont Protective Barrier Restoration” and “Dumont Dunes OHV Ground Operations”

Hello, my name is Pete Greep. I have been going to Dumont since 1998. I own and run the website, DumontDuneRiders.com. I have read over the recent applications for the grants concerning Dumont Dunes and have some opinions and concerns regarding them.

Dumont Protective Barrier Restoration

The problem I have is with the plans for a protective fence all around Dumont. I do not support this nor do I agree with our group, “Dumont Dune Riders”, being listed on the application under “Utilization of Partnerships” (question 8). I feel I can speak for the majority of the riders in our group by saying we oppose this plan. We have voiced our concerns many times on this subject at the BLM/ TRT meetings in Barstow. Nobody I have ever talked to in our group has supported a fence all round Dumont so I’m not sure why our group has been listed as a partnership for the fencing.

I feel that a fence is not necessary and a waste of government funding. In addition, I also feel that it can be used in the future as a tool to aid in closing Dumont Dunes. If an anti-access group were able to successfully get a petition filed, closing Dumont down temporarily (or even permanently) would be as easy as closing off the opening of the fencing.

I understand that it is crucial that we stay in bounds because of the critical vegetation and habitat of fringe toed lizards. There has been much talk at the BLM/ TRT meetings of fencing **only** the critical areas where the incursions occur. If any fencing would have to go up at all, I think this would be a much smarter approach to the situation instead of fencing off the entire area. As of right now, many duners and riders sometimes don’t even know that they are out of bounds due to the lack of signage or warnings around the boundaries. I frequent Dumont Dunes at least 2 times a month during the season and even a couple times in the summertime. I have **never** seen any signage or markers in the areas of concern such as out near the north east area (north pole) where there are trails that lead to the Kingston Wilderness area. I understand that these trails are off limits, but not everyone does because there are no signs saying so.

People need to be informed of the areas that are out of limits, otherwise they will never know about them. I feel that by educating riders with signage, markers, and brochures that are available at Dumont Dunes it will prove to be successful in getting the point across and keep people from going into areas that are off limits. I have seen it work in many other areas such as Glamis Dunes, CA and Coral Pink Dunes, UT. In my opinion, I feel this should be done before any plans are to be made to build a 9 mile fence around Dumont. If all these efforts have failed so far, I would agree with the fence. However, I have not seen any efforts being made up to this point.

Dumont Dunes OHV Ground Operations

I completely support this grant. It is much needed funding for Dumont Dunes to remain an open OHV riding area and a well maintained place of recreation for the users. The BLM does an excellent job of maintaining the Dumont Dunes area. Grants for this type of use is “money well spent” in my eyes.

Thank you for your time.

Pete Greep
Dumont Dune Riders
www.dumontduneriders.com

